

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 918

INFO AMEMBASSY DACCA

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

AMCONSUL BOMBAY

AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

AMCONSUL MADRAS

CINCPAC

UNCLAS NEW DELHI 11673

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, IN, BG

SUBJECT: GOI RECOGNITION OF THE NEW BANGLADESH REGIME AND COMMENTS

OF MRS. GANDHI

REF: NEW DELHI 11414

1. AN MEA SPOKESMAN AUGUST 27 MADE THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT
ON GOI RECOGNITION OF THE NEW REGIME IN DACCA:

"WE CONTINUE TO MAINTAIN NORMAL DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS
WITH THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH ON THE SAME
BASIS AS WHEN WE RECOGNISED BANGLADESH IN DECEMBER 1971.
"OUR HIGH COMMISSIONER CALLED ON THE PRESIDENT OF BANGLADESH
ON AUGUST 20 AND SUBSEQUENTLY ON THE FOREIGN MINISTER OF
BANGLADESH. THE BANGLADESH HIGH COMMISSIONER CALLED ON
THE PRIME MINISTER ON AUGUST 25 AND HAD EARLIER MET
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THE FOREIGN SECRETARY.

"WE HAVE BEEN IN CORRESPONDENCE WITH THE NEW GOVERNMENT
IN THE NORMAL MANNER THROUGH OUR RESPECTIVE MISSIONS.
"A BANGLADESH DELEGATION WAS IN NEW DELHI ONLY A FEW DAYS
AGO. IT WOULD BE CLEAR FROM ALL THIS THAT WE CONTINUE
TO RECOGNISE BANGLADESH."

2. IN AN INTERVIEW AUGUST 21 WITH THE FOREIGN EDITOR OF
CAIRO'S "AL AHRAM", PRIME MINISTER GANDHI REPORTEDLY SAID
"IT IS OUR SINCERE HOPE THAT THE PRESENT LEADERS OF
BANGLADESH WILL CONTINUE TO WORK FOR THE OBJECTIVE OF
GOODWILL AND COOPERATION ON THE SUBCONTINENT--AS THEY
HAVE ANNOUNCED IN THEIR FIRST STATEMENT--AND THAT THEY
WILL WORK FOR THE FULFILMENT OF THE IDEALS ON WHICH
THE BANGLADESH NATION WAS BUILT." THE PRIME MINISTER
SAID FOR INDIA'S PART "WE ARE UNSHAKABLY COMMITTED TO
THE PURSUIT OF FRIENDSHIP AND COOPERATION WITH BANGLADESH
AND WITH ALL OUR NEIGHBOURS. ONE DOES NOT NORMALLY COMMENT
ON THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF ANOTHER COUNTRY, PARTICULARLY
OF A NEIGHBOUR. BUT ASSASSINATION IS ALWAYS REGRETTABLE
AND THE ASSASSINATION OF A GREAT STATESMAN
AND SYMBOL FIGURE OF NATIONAL FREEDOM LIKE SHEIKH MUJIBUR
RAHMAN IS DOUBLY DEPLORABLE." SHE SAID THAT IT WAS TOO
EARLY TO FORECAST THE EFFECTS OF BANGLADESH DEVELOPMENTS
ON THE LARGER ASIAN CONTINENT. "OUR OWN SINCERE WISH IS
THAT THEY SHOULD NOT IN ANY WAY COMPLICATE THE SITUATION."
MRS. GANDHI SAID THAT THERE ARE DEVELOPMENTS ELSEWHERE IN THE
CONTINENT WHICH ARE OF EQUAL SIGNIFICANCE, PARTICULARLY THE
SITUATION IN S.E. ASIA AFTER THE VIET NAM WAR. THE
LESSONS ARE THAT NATIONS SHOULD HAVE THE FREEDOM AND OPPOR-
TUNITY TO SHAPE THEIR OWN DESTINY AND THAT THERE IS NO
JUSTIFICATION FOR FOREIGN PRESENCES."SAXBE

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